

# BOARD OF ETHICS

## Open Session Minutes

December 16, 2010 - 3:04 p.m.  
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

### Board Members Present

Tiffany Chappell Ingram  
Eileen Libby  
Thomas McCarthy  
Michael F. Quirk

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair (Absent)  
Lisa M. Taylor (Absent)  
John L. Wilhelm, M.D. (Absent)

### Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Executive Director  
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel  
Courtney L.D. Kimble,  
Attorney/Investigator  
Edward Primer, Program Director  
Pauilly Casillas, Staff Assistant

After a quorum of Board members (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) assembled, the members present elected Michael Quirk to act as Chair *Pro Tem* for the December meeting of the Board of Ethics.

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to approve the Open Session Minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting.

### **II. Chair's Report**

None.

### **III. Executive Director's Report**

#### **A. Education—Classes**

Since the last meeting, staff has conducted 3 classes for those required to attend, on November 18, and December 2 and 16. A total of 94 employees attended. There are currently 35 persons scheduled for class on January 13, and 25 on January 27.

On December 2, staff made a 90 minute presentation to 44 employees of the law firm of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Samson, a City contractor (a collections law firm).

On December 10, staff presented the last of four classes to about 155 Department of Aviation contractors at O'Hare, at the request of the Commissioner of Aviation.

On December 13, our Attorney/Investigator made a presentation to about 22 persons at New Employee Orientation.

**B. Education—Mandatory Annual Ethics Education**

I'm pleased to announce that, to date there are 33,316 employees scheduled for 2010, and approximately 32,308—or 97%—have completed their requirement. To date, 24 aldermen have complied with the requirement.

As to annual required lobbyist training, to date, 118 lobbyists have completed the program—about 21% of the expected total.

**C. Statements of Financial Interests**

To date, there remain 3 employees and 7 appointed officials who have yet to file their 2010 forms as required by law. We are at 99.98 % compliance.

To date in 2010, the office has collected \$12,060 late filing fees.

Staff is finalizing user acceptance testing for the on-line filing, retrieval, and processing system for Statements of Financial Interests. Emails and notifications will be sent in mid-January to all City employees and officials required to file regarding the new system, and log-in information will be sent around March 1.

**D. Candidates**

To date, the office has received 309 candidates' forms. All these forms will be posted for public inspection on our website by the end of today.

On December 1, staff sent written notices to 129 persons who had filed petitions with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners for election to City office regarding the requirement that they file a Statements of Financial Interests.

**E. Lobbyist Registration**

There are currently **555** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, **\$288,075.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

Tomorrow, December 17, staff will send email reminders to all registered lobbyists about the 2011 registration year, and links to the forms. All lobbyists must register annually by January 20, or within 5 days of engaging in lobbying activity.

**F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act**

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received 89 requests from 28 separate persons under the Freedom of Information Act. These were 5 requests for 657 lobbyists' filings for varying years from 2003-2010, 1 request for correspondence, and 83 requests for 83 2010 Statements of Financial Interests for candidates for the upcoming City elections. This all resulted in production of 381 filed records and copying of 153 records or pages therefrom (one requestor currently is designating records for copying).

**G. 2010 COGEL (Council on Governmental Ethics Laws)**

From December 5 through 8, the Executive Director attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual COGEL Conference in Washington DC. About 350 governmental ethics, lobbying regulation, campaign financing regulation and FOIA professional attended as well.

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Miguel A. Ruiz, Lisa M. Taylor and John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:17 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.